

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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vigorous foreign policy Impossible, and France would extend Its power unopposed. " It might be doubted which was of the greater importance for the life of Europe, the decision of the internal English, or of the external continental, questions/ ¹

In book xvii Ranke confines himself to the Internal ques- tion, showing by which acts James II proved that the com- bination of a Catholic king and a Protestant nation was im- possible in England.

In the Introduction to book xviii, Ranke insists on the International aspect of the revolution which this Incom- patibility produced. The states of Europe, he says, are often held to be more Independent of each other than they really are. They are a general community of peoples closely connected with each other and possessing a kind of common life. ^c Even Insular England ' feels the effect of tendencies generally prevailing In Europe and influences them In turn. The proceedings of James 11 which aimed at the reintroduc- tion of Catholicism Into England were but a part of the general struggle between Catholicism and Protestantism in Europe. The fact that Louis XIV was the great champion of the Catholic Interest and that James 11 relied upon his aid made the struggle in England of European Importance.

^c The strife which awaited Its decision In England thus lost its insular character; It entered Into

connexion with the
great religious and political conflict which
then divided
Europe, and appears as an essential part of
it/ *

In the first chapter of book **xviii**, Ranke
shows that
James, who felt the aid of Louis XIV to be a
necessity, took
the side of Louis in his quarrel with the House
of Austria
and came to an understanding with France
for operations
against Holland and the German Empire. '
No prince |

¹iv. 310.

³iv. 370,